

OCT 12 2001

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1 MS. DUFFY: Good afternoon, everyone.

2 I'm Laurel Duffy and I'm a citizen of

3 Pahrump. My remarks are probably just my own opinion.

4 Maybe some of you share that opinion. I don't really

5 know if our comments here today or the comments made in

6 Amargosa Valley or the comments made in Las Vegas

7 previously have any effect whatsoever on the Department

8 of Energy and the decision to make Yucca Mountain the

9 next nuclear repository. I really don't know and I

10 really don't believe that the Department of Energy is

11 at all interested to know whether we want this site or

12 we don't because they already know that we don't.

13 And they already know the reason that we

14 don't want this site and that is because none of us

15 feel that we could be safe within the distance that we

16 are from Yucca Mountain. None of us believes from all

17 that we've read, many of us have read a great deal,

18 some of us have read just a little. But everything

19 that we have read, it appears to us to be no more than

20 smoke and mirrors and we're not convinced at all that

21 we would be safe with Yucca in the shadow of Yucca

22 Mountain.

23 It appears from the Governor's statements

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24 that were read at the beginning of these proceedings

25 that the chart that was displayed earlier, we will

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1 follow plan B, C, or 3, I guess it is, the one that

2 says that the Governor will submit a notice of

3 disapproval and that the site will require

4 Congressional action. I do think that this will

5 probably happen.

6 What I'm curious to know, however, is why the

7 Department of Energy felt that they must decide this

8 issue now, particularly in view of the events of

9 September 11th. Are they in such a hurry for that

10 convoy of moving bomb sites to advance on Nevada slowly

11 from the east that they must decide it now?

12 You know, it's really, we've had a lot of

13 talk about terrorists and bombing and bomb sites and

14 most of the time, we have heard that the terrorists

15 look for populated areas and use them as bomb targets

16 and then target it and bomb those areas. Well, with

17 the transportation of nuclear material to Nevada, they

18 won't even need to consider finding a particular site

19 because all they need to do is wait for the bomb site

20 to arrive at that location and then there they have it.

21 I don't know why the committee is in such a

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22 hurry to get the site approved. I really don't
23 understand. Lots of things have been postponed lately.
24 Lots of things have been halted. And I just watched
25 television the other day and they had some photographs
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1 of a location where the largest germ warfare plant in
2 the United States is located and I watched that for a
3 minute and I thought to myself, why do I know where
4 this is? They also said in the report that if the
5 material inside this plant got loose, it would destroy
6 the country. And again, I'm saying to myself, why do I
7 know where this is located?

8 We all know where the repository will be
9 located. We also pretty much know what the travel to
10 that site would entail. Also today, there was a break
11 in the television schedule and they announced that an
12 NBC reporter was found to be infected with anthrax and
13 he wasn't associated with those that were infected in
14 Florida.

15 And I still wonder and I wonder it again:
16 Why are we in such a hurry to make this decision now?
17 The repository at Yucca Mountain would take 78 years to
18 fill and the government would be responsible for that
19 site for only 100 years. The repository would have to

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20 be open, however, for 200 to 220 years. And we have no
21 funds for oversight.

22 What will the world look like in 225 years?

23 The nuclear material -- we've heard varying stories,

24 but from what I understand, it has a life of at least

25 500,000 years. And a way to look at that would be to

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1 look at the population of Pahrump and its growth over

2 the last 10 years. Look ahead 10 years and believe

3 that everyone that is born lives, and no one dies, and

4 that is what we have. Pretty soon, we have a huge

5 population and multiply that by maybe 100,000 and you

6 might have some idea of what a problem we will have

7 with nuclear waste in the near future if something

8 isn't done.

9 MODERATOR BROWN: You're at the five-minute

10 mark.

11 MS. DUFFY: Pardon me?

12 MODERATOR BROWN: You're at the 5-minute

13 mark.

14 MS. DUFFY: Thank you.